

underserved communities. The award provides \$20,000 to each recipient for personal development and another \$105,000 to the project with which the awardee is affiliated. I am confident that this funding will be put to good use in Dr. Boyd's hands.

Dr. Boyd is a nursing assistant professor and a health programs coordinator for the University of Hawaii's Windward Community College, WCC. She is the first Native Hawaiian faculty member at the University of Hawaii to have earned a Ph.D. while also being a registered nurse. Carrying on a family tradition of nursing learned from her grandmother, she set out to better the health care system in Hawaii by improving nurse training and patient care.

To help achieve those goals, Dr. Boyd created the Pathway out of Poverty program at WCC. The program is founded on Native Hawaiian cultural values and seeks to encourage and train Native Hawaiian and disadvantaged students pursuing careers in nursing. She aims to reduce poverty, increase the number of Native Hawaiian nurses, and improve the quality of nursing care by producing more empathetic and culturally competent providers. Today, Dr. Boyd trains about 50 nurse's aides a year with approximately one-quarter of them going on to pursue an RN degree.

As an educator and former principal, I know firsthand about the countless hours that go into creating curricula and reaching out to students. It makes me proud to see outstanding educators receive well-deserved national recognition for their hard work. Dr. Boyd's dedication to her field and to the people of Hawaii is undeniable. I applaud her for earning this outstanding recognition, and I wish her much continued success in her future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW MEXICO'S STATEHOOD

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, this month marked the 100th anniversary of New Mexico's statehood. In recognition of this occasion, the Senate Historian, Donald Ritchie, wrote a wonderful piece highlighting the political and ethnic issues surrounding New Mexico's efforts to become a State. I thought it would be nice to share this historical note with the public by including it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask that Mr. Ritchie's Senate Historical Minute, titled "New Mexico Enters the Union," be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

SENATE HISTORICAL MINUTE—JANUARY 6, 1912

NEW MEXICO ENTERS THE UNION

A century ago, on January 6, 1912, New Mexico entered the Union as a State. This ended a 64-year effort to achieve statehood, stalled by a combination of political and ethnic prejudice.

In 1848, the United States acquired vast territories in the Southwest under the Trea-

ty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican War. The problem was how to organize this territory without inflaming tensions between the North and South over the spread of slavery. The treaty had provided that inhabitants of the territories would become citizens and would be admitted into the Union as States "at the proper time (to be judged by the Congress of the United States)." President Zachary Taylor thought that sectional tensions might be eased if New Mexico and California immediately applied for statehood and avoided territorial status. The Compromise of 1850 admitted California but ignored New Mexico's application for statehood.

Over the next six decades, other Western States were admitted ahead of New Mexico. Congress at that time was often divided between a Democratic majority in the House and a Republican majority in the Senate. Each party tried to block the admission of a new State that might give the other party two more Senators. Because New Mexico was viewed as a potentially Democratic state, the Republican Senate thwarted its admission. In 1888, Republican majorities in both houses passed an omnibus statehood bill that enabled North and South Dakota, Washington, and Montana to move towards statehood, but omitted New Mexico.

Besides politics, New Mexico met resistance from Senators who questioned whether its largely Spanish-speaking, Catholic population was capable of self-government "in the Anglo-Saxon sense." Senator Albert Beveridge, who chaired the Committee on Territories, traveled through New Mexico and Arizona in 1902 and came back convinced that neither was ready for statehood. President Theodore Roosevelt, however, was anxious to settle the issue, and to break the logjam he proposed combining the territories of New Mexico and Arizona into a single State. Its capital would be in Santa Fe, but it would take the name Arizona. When submitted to the voters, New Mexico passed the proposal, but Arizona soundly defeated it.

In his last annual message to Congress, President Roosevelt abandoned the idea of a combined territory and proposed that each should gain statehood. Senator Beveridge continued to fight statehood, but in 1910 Congress adopted the Enabling Act to admit both New Mexico and Arizona. New Mexico immediately submitted an acceptable constitution, but objections were raised against Arizona's more progressive constitution. As a result, New Mexico's admission was blocked by a Senate filibuster until Arizona's constitution was also approved. New Mexico at last became a State on January 6, 1912, and Arizona followed a month later.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF PAUL LANEY

● Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I wanted to say a few words today about Paul Laney, who is the Sheriff of Cass County, ND. Sheriff Laney has just been named the Sheriff of the Year for 2011 by the National Sheriff's Association, and I can tell you that it is a well-deserved honor.

Sheriff Laney has long been known for his tireless, diligent and innovative efforts on behalf of the people of Cass County. He is always out in public putting the best face on the Sheriff's Department and working hard to strengthen community bonds in that part of the Red River Valley. Last year he received the 9-1-1 Government Leader Award from the E9-1-1 Institute for

his work in helping create the Fargo-Moorhead regional dispatch center, which was the first in the nation to integrate services across State lines.

Sheriff Laney also played a strong and pivotal role in coordinating response to major flooding in both 2009 and 2010 in Cass County. The flooding in 2009 was the worst ever seen in the region, and his leadership made a major difference in a situation that many thought would end in catastrophic loss.

I congratulate Sheriff Laney for being named Sheriff of the Year. I know the citizens of Cass County, like me, greatly appreciate all he has done on their behalf.●

VERMONT STUDENTS' ESSAYS

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD these essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the Second Annual "What is the State of the Union?" essay contest conducted by my office. The following essays were selected as "Honorable Mentions."

The Statements follow.

HANNAH APFELBAUM, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL (HONORABLE MENTION)

[January 23, 2012]

America is not living up to its full potential. We have one of the highest child poverty rates in the Western world, a high unemployment rate, and test very low in math and science compared to other developed countries. And that's not all—we also face environmental challenges and the decline of the middle class. We must use our differences to unite us by tackling all aspects of the issues we face. But America is asking how, specifically, do we solve these problems?

First, we need to decide what problems not to solve. Iraq and Afghanistan are not in ideal condition. This does not mean, however, that we should be pouring all of our money into military efforts there. Instead, we need to make more money available for the most pressing issues in our own country.

One way to make more money available is to stop giving the wealthiest people the biggest tax cuts. It is understandable that politicians are concerned about backlash from these influential citizens, but the majority of people in this country—the middle class—needs to be taken into account. With the national debt becoming greater and greater, these tax cuts simply are not sustainable.

So where should our money go? The first priority should be education. Successful experiences in the early years of school make children much less likely to drop out or end up in prison—an entity that tax dollars pay for, with less than stellar results. Investment in public elementary schools benefits both the children and the general public. We also need to spend money on college financial aid programs. The most successful students who cannot pay their own tuition deserve to have this opportunity, and will most likely make a large contribution to society in their adult lives. All contributions to education will help make Americans qualified to obtain jobs that will provide them with comfortable wages, and stimulate the economy.

We also need to spend money on healthcare. Every American has the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Life, especially, is very hard to maintain without adequate healthcare. The right to be safe is something that needs to be provided